

# **Agenda Item 5**

## **MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS Rule Briefing, Public Hearing and Rule Action**

**WAC 232-28-436**

# MIGRATORY WATERFOWL SEASONS

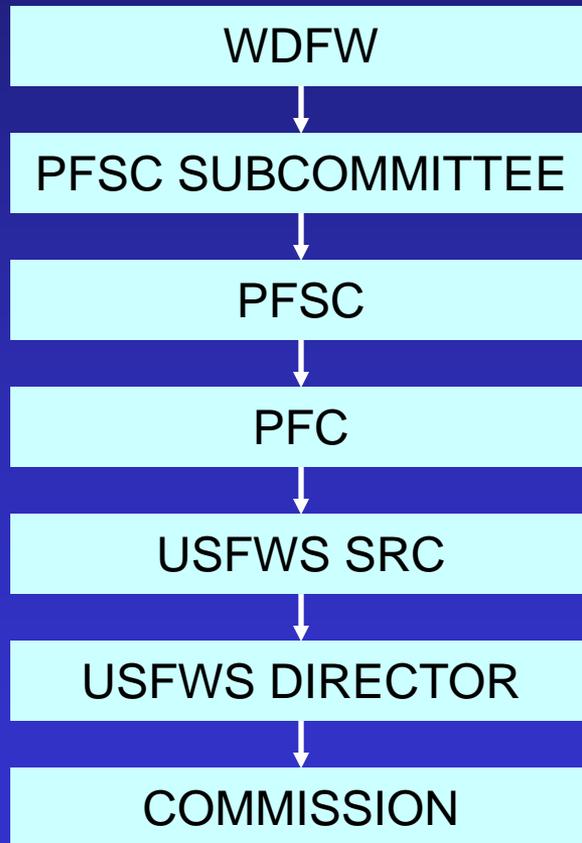
## Rule Briefing, Public Hearing and Rule Action

- **USFWS Authority: Federal Framework**
  - Earliest opening, latest closing date
  - Maximum limits, season length
  - Shooting hours
- **State Discretion: WAC**
  - Can be more restrictive but not more liberal
  - Season timing, split seasons, zones



# Steps in Approval of Migratory Bird Seasons

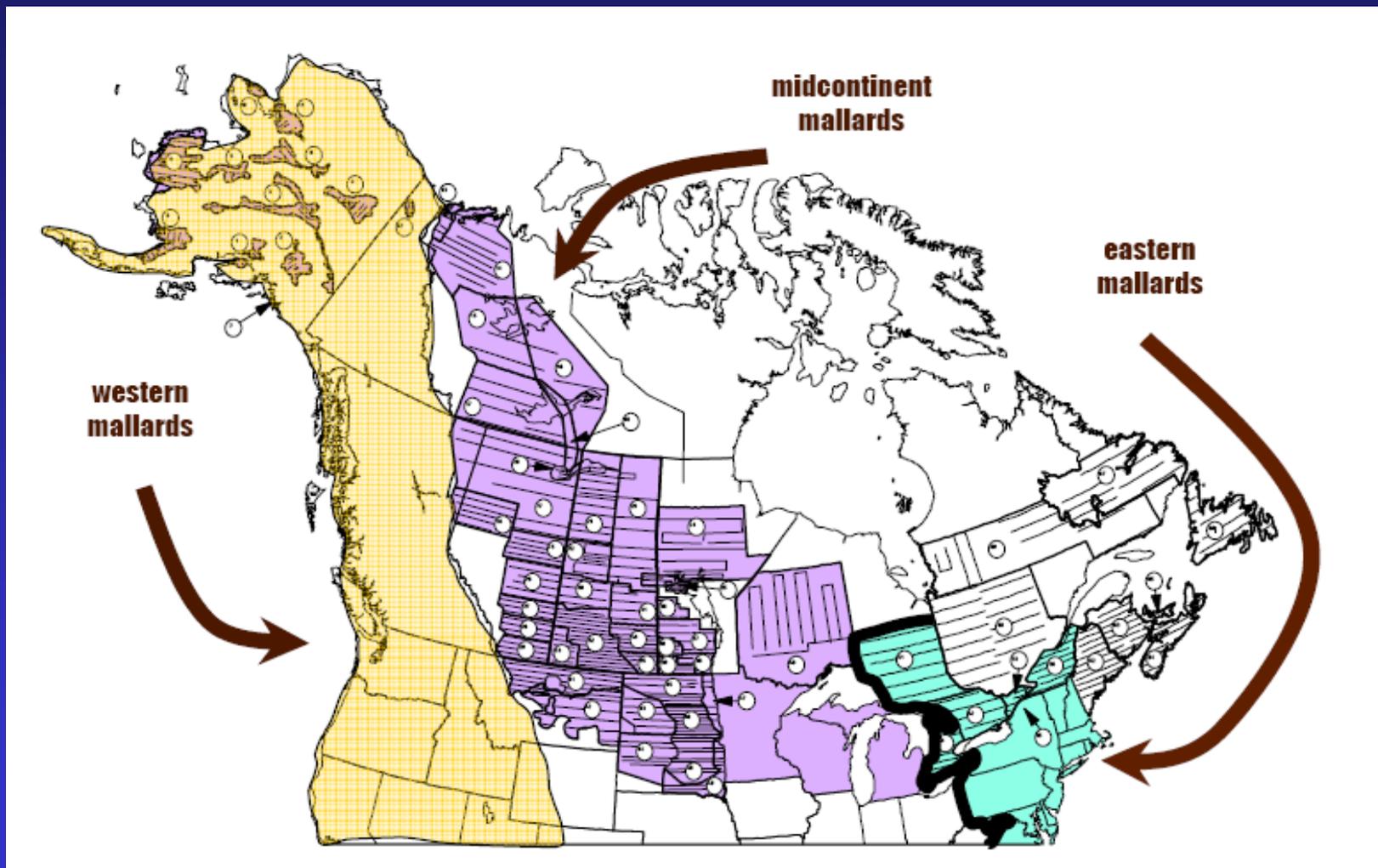
## FRAMEWORK CHANGES



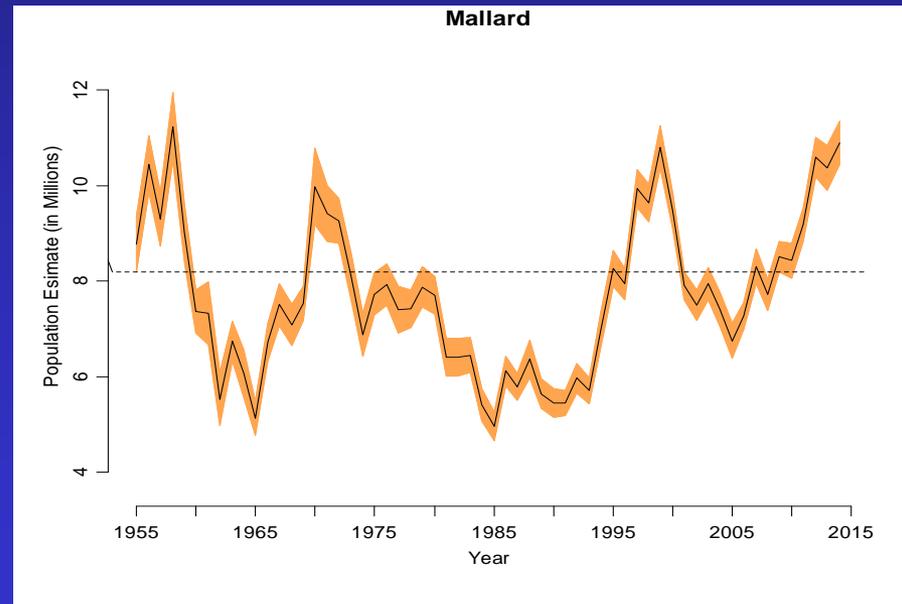
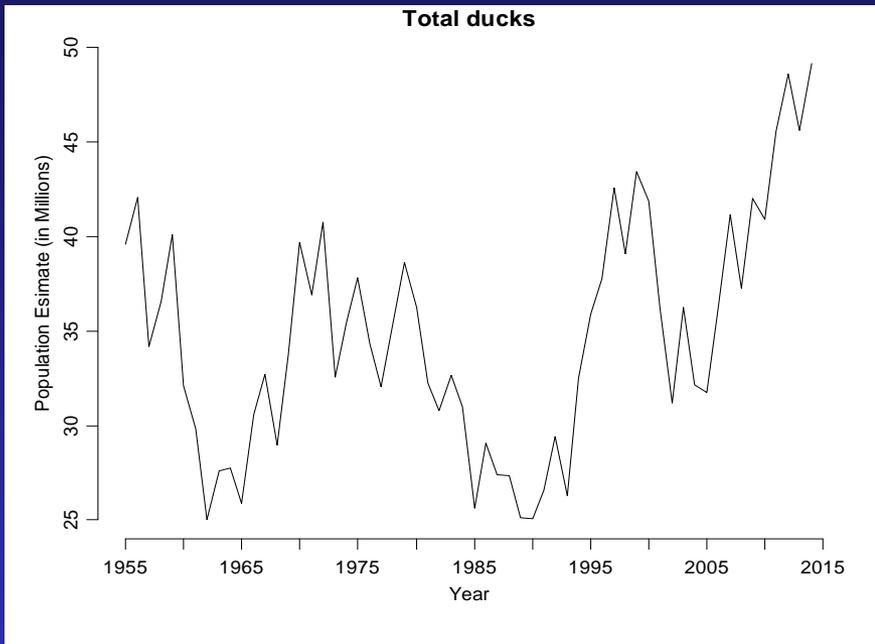
## NON-FRAMEWORK CHANGES



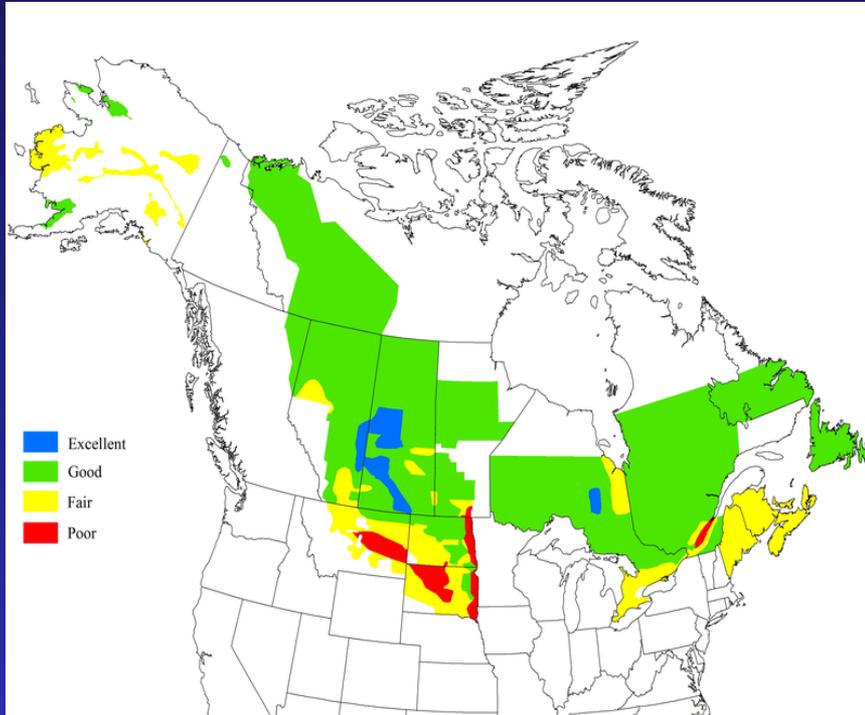
# N. American Mallard Stocks



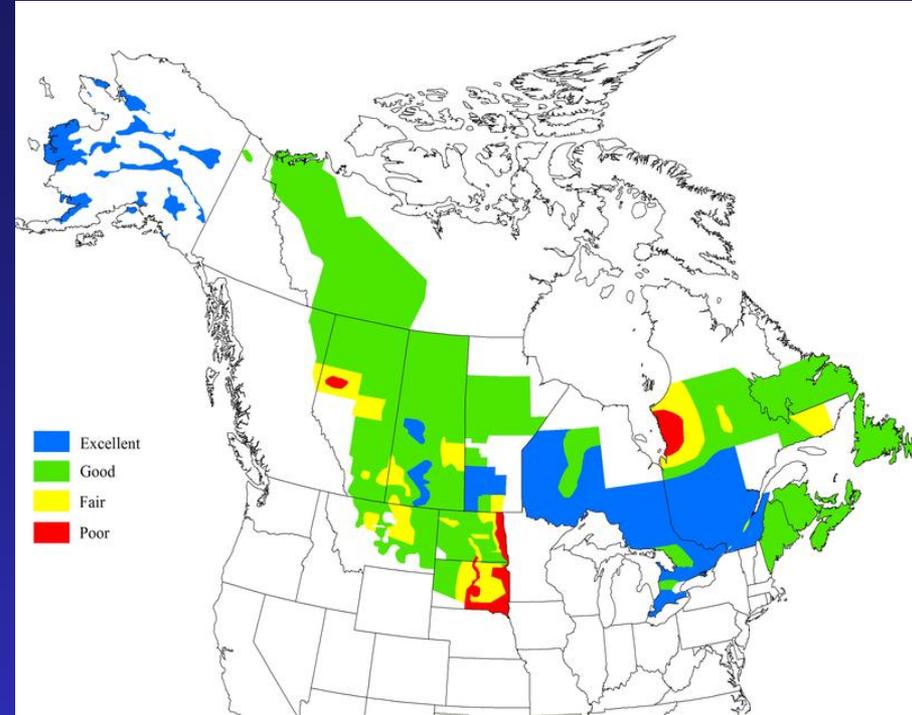
# 2014 Results – All N. Survey Areas



# N. American Habitat Conditions



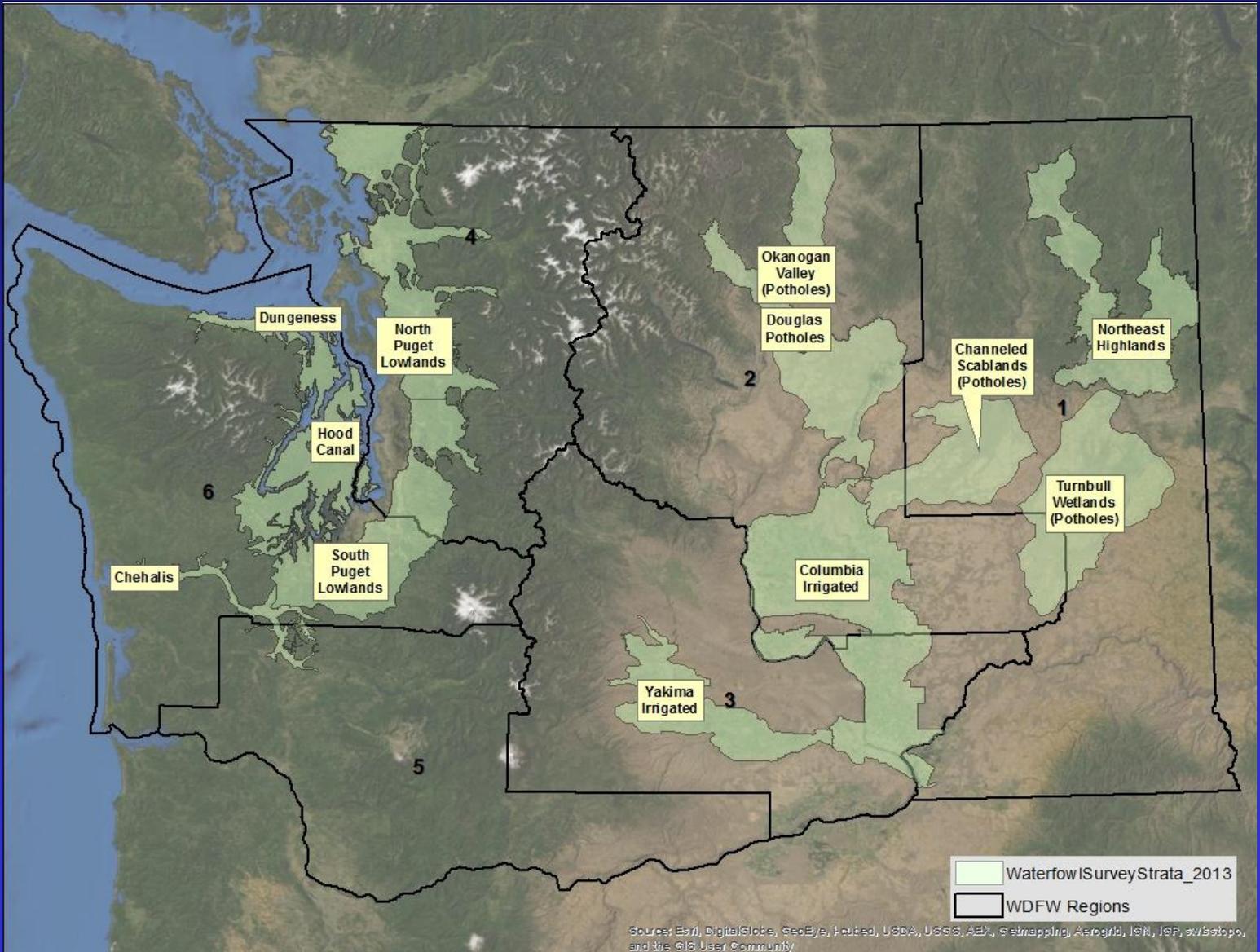
2013



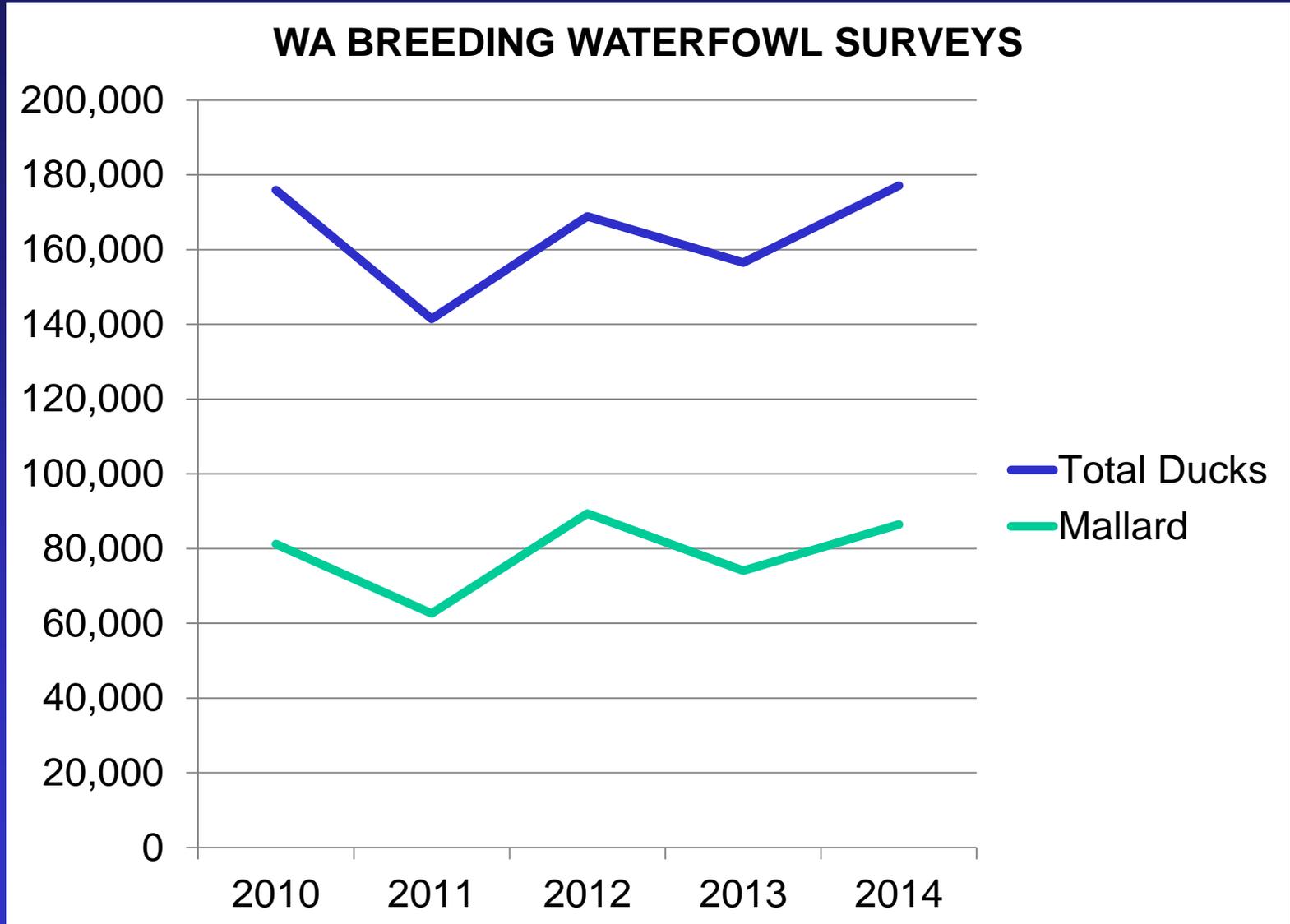
2014

- Habitat conditions for the most part are as good or better than last year.

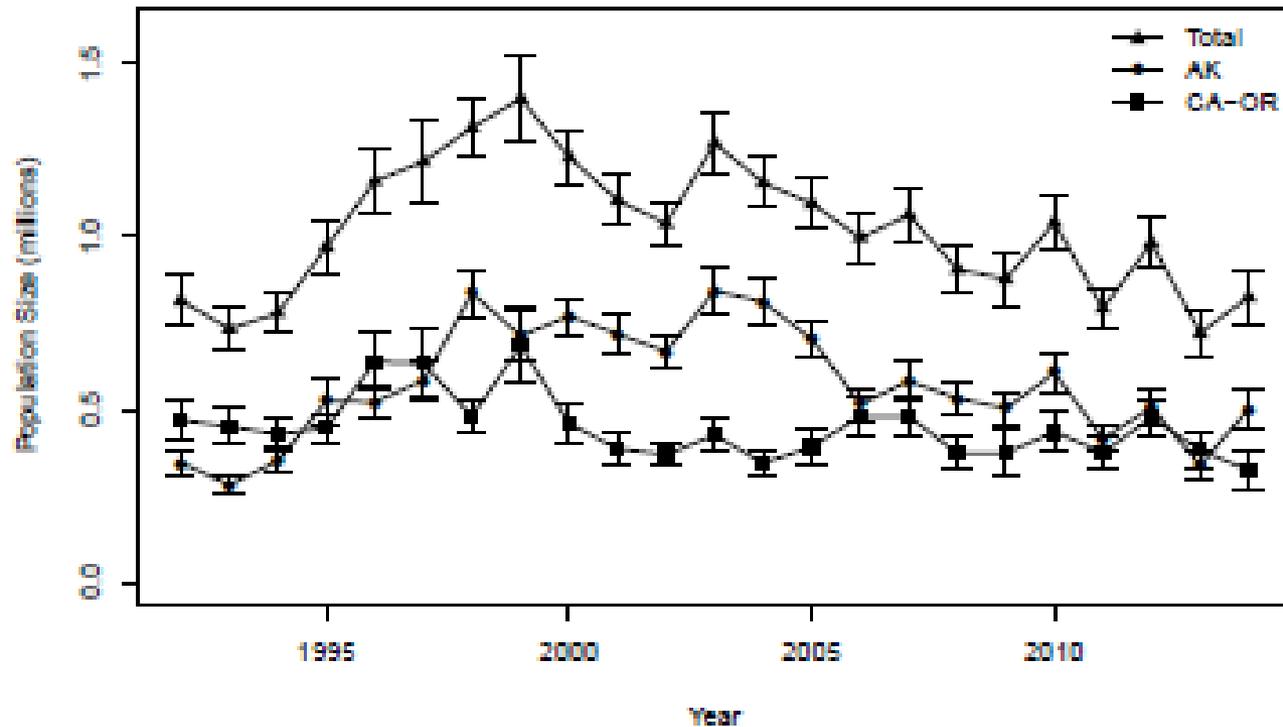
# Washington Breeding Surveys



# Washington Breeding Surveys



# 2014 Western Mallard Trends



# 2014-15 Western Mallard Regulatory Prescription

CA-OR BPOP <sup>b</sup>	Alaska BPOP <sup>b</sup>										
	0	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.35	0.4	0.45	≥0.5
0	C	C	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.05	C	C	C	R	R	R	M	M	L	L	L
0.10	C	R	R	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.15	R	R	M	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.20	M	R	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.25	L	R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.30	L	R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.35	L	R	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.40	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.45	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
0.50	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L
≥0.55	L	M	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

<sup>a</sup>C = closed season, R = restrictive, M = moderate, L = liberal.

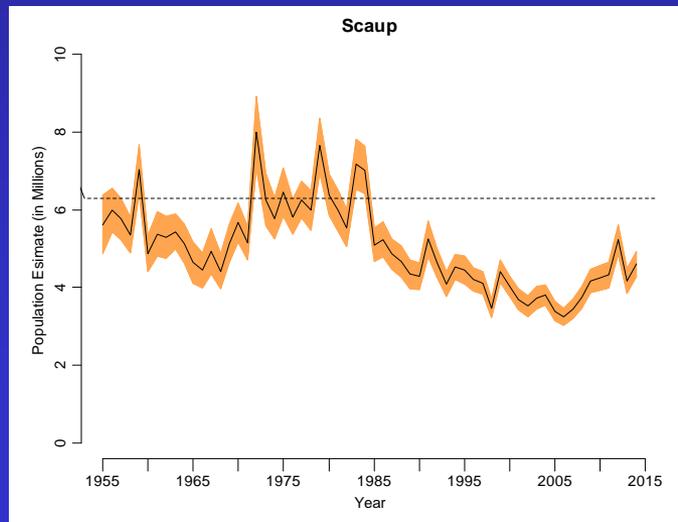
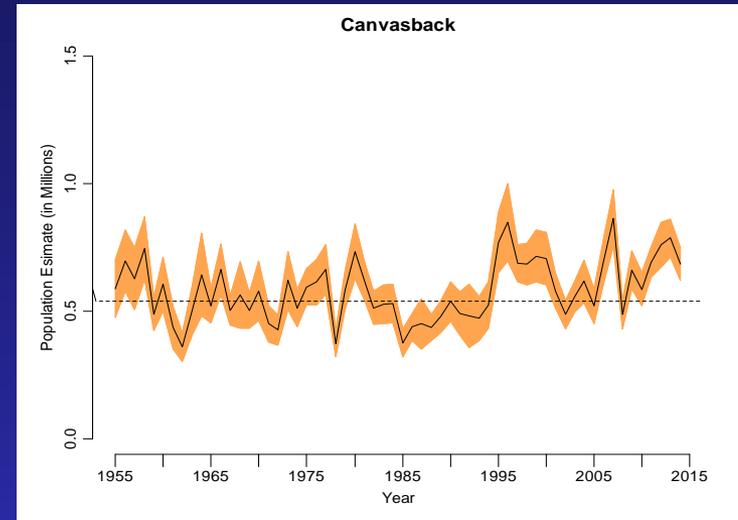
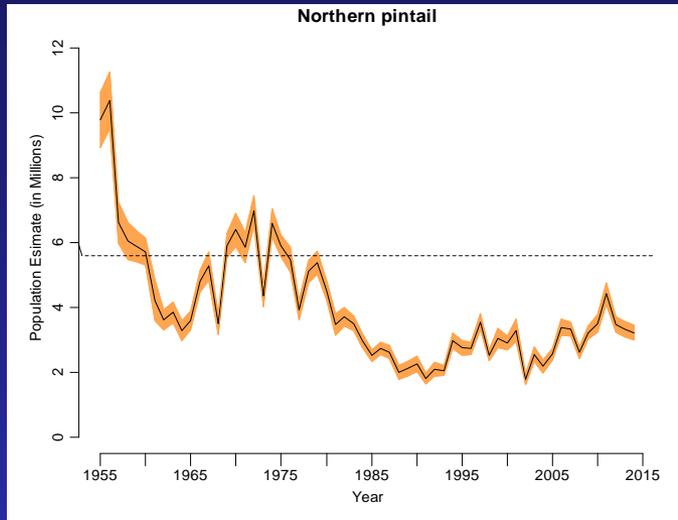
<sup>b</sup>Estimated number of mallards (in millions) for Alaska (WBPHS strata 1-12) and in California-Oregon.

## 2014-15: Liberal Season

# AHM / Washington Season Timing (From Game Mgmt Plan)

Regulation package	EASTERN WASHINGTON			WESTERN WASHINGTON		
	Days	Limit total/ mall/ F mall	Proposed Season Timing*	Days	Limit total/ mall/ F mall	Proposed Season Timing*
Liberal	107	7/7/2	mid-Oct. thru late Jan.	107	7/7/2	mid-Oct. thru late Jan.
Moderate	93	7/5/2	mid-Oct. – 9 days; remainder early-Nov. thru late Jan.	86	7/5/2	mid-Oct. – 9 days; remainder mid-Nov. thru late Jan.
Restrictive	67	4/3/1	mid-Oct. – 9 days; remainder mid-Nov. thru mid-Jan.	60	4/3/1	mid-Oct. – 9 days; remainder mid-Nov. thru early Jan.

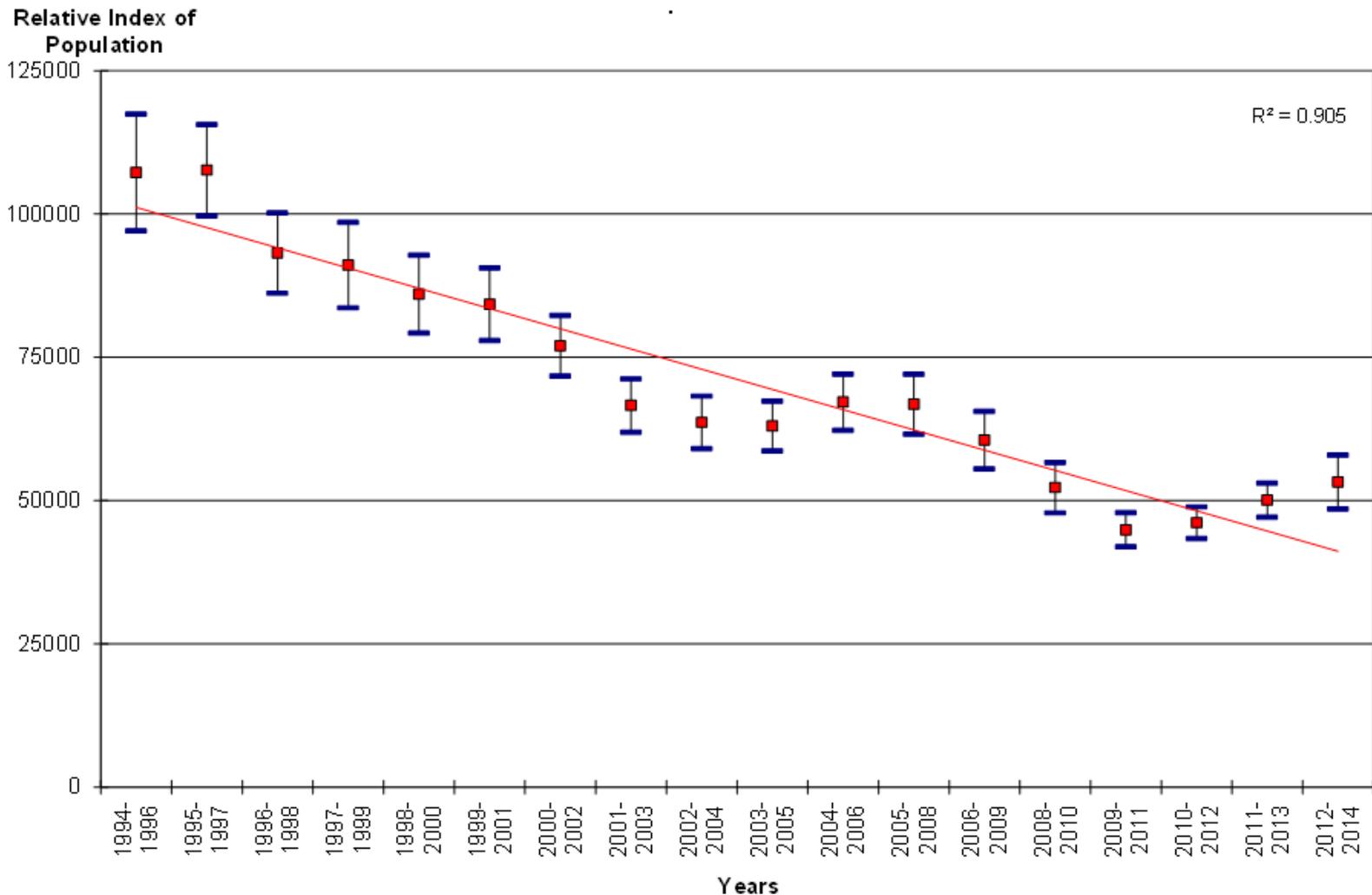
# Pintail, Canvasback, Scaup



- Independent harvest strategies based on models

# Scoters

Trends of Scoter (BLSC, SUSC, WWSC) Winter Relative Populations Indices from the Inner Marine Waters of Washington State, 1993/4-2013/14 (3-Year Running Averages).



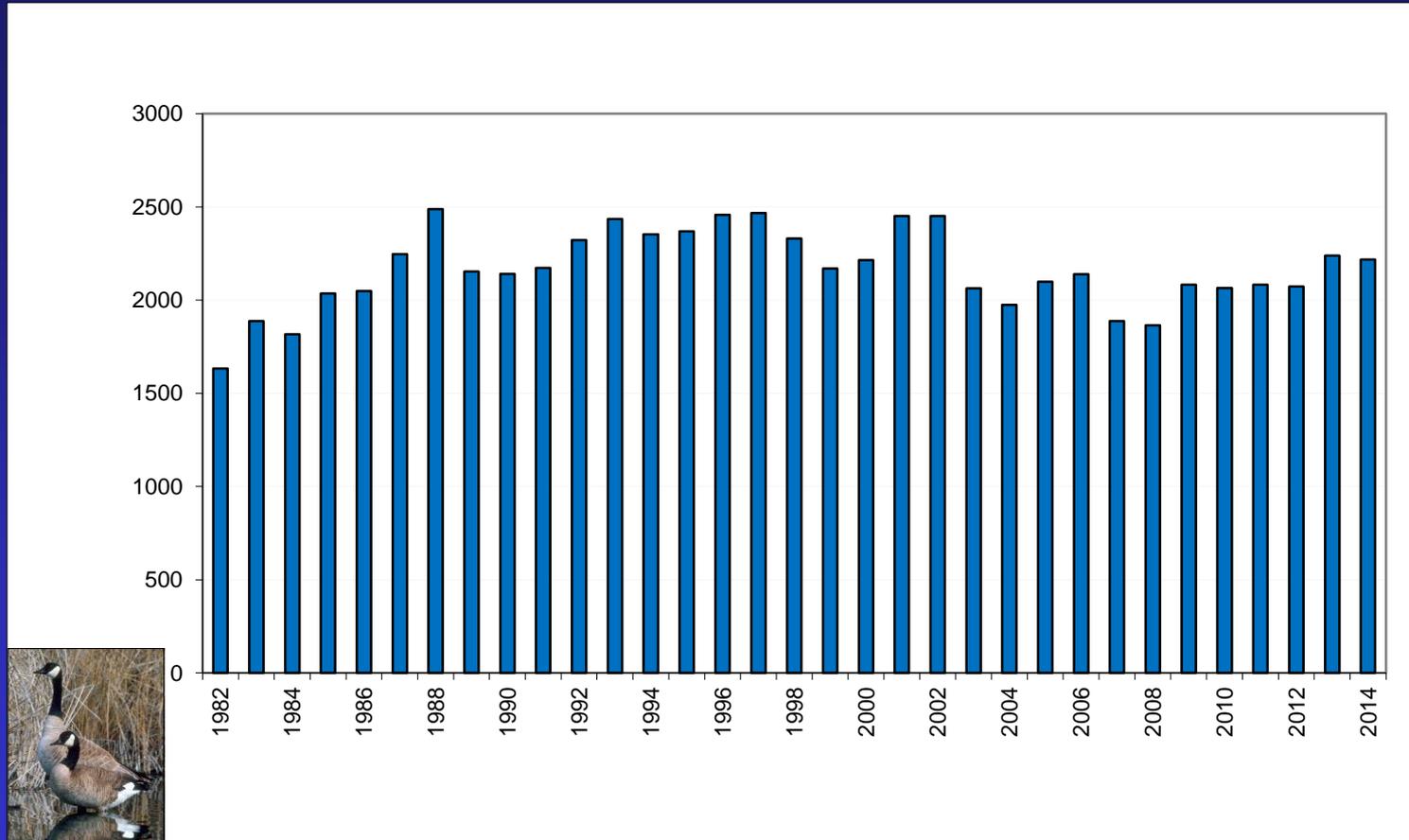
# 2014-15 Duck Season Proposals

- **Proposed general duck season dates and limits similar to last year**
  - **107 days**
    - 2 day youth hunt
    - 105 day general season
    - **Scaup season closed Oct. 11-31 (open Nov. 1 – Jan. 25)**
  - **7 ducks, to include not more than:**
    - 2 hen mallard, 2 pintail
    - 2 redhead, **1** canvasback, **3** scaup
    - W. WA: 2 scoter, 2 long-tail, 2 goldeneye, 1 harlequin

# Goose Population Status 2014

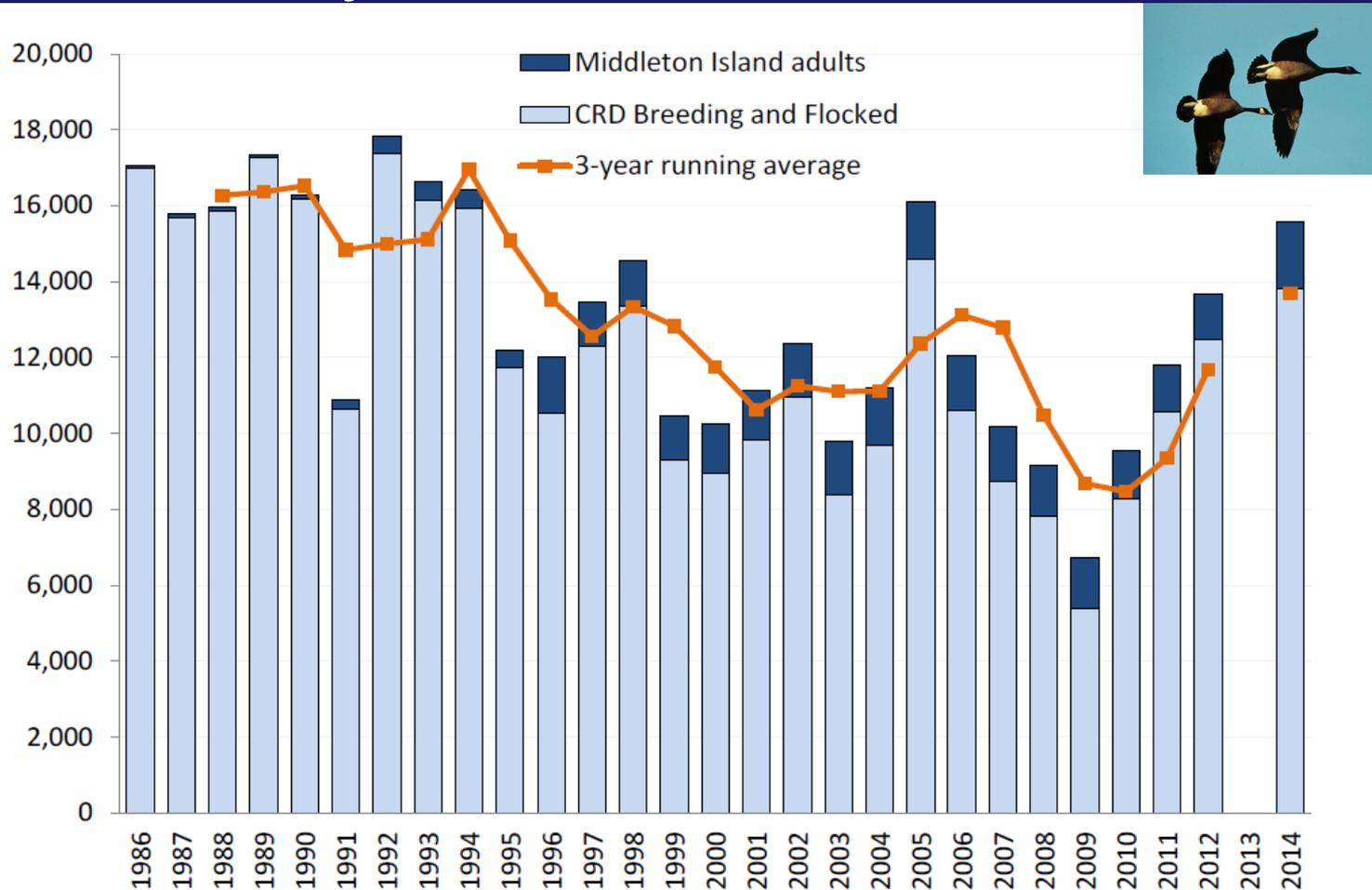


# Eastern WA Canada Goose Nest Trends



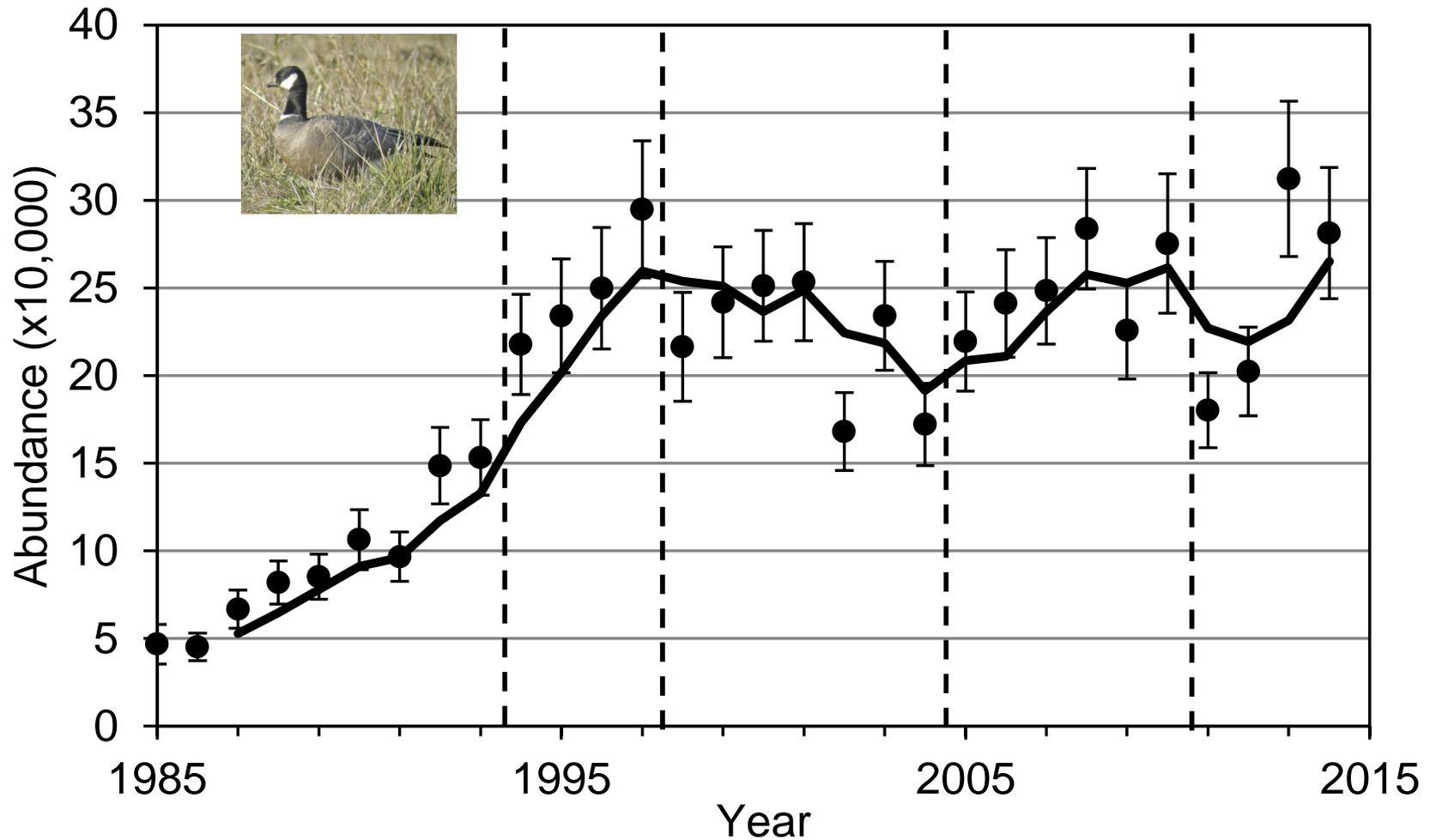
- 3 yr ave = 2,176

# Dusky Canada Goose Trends

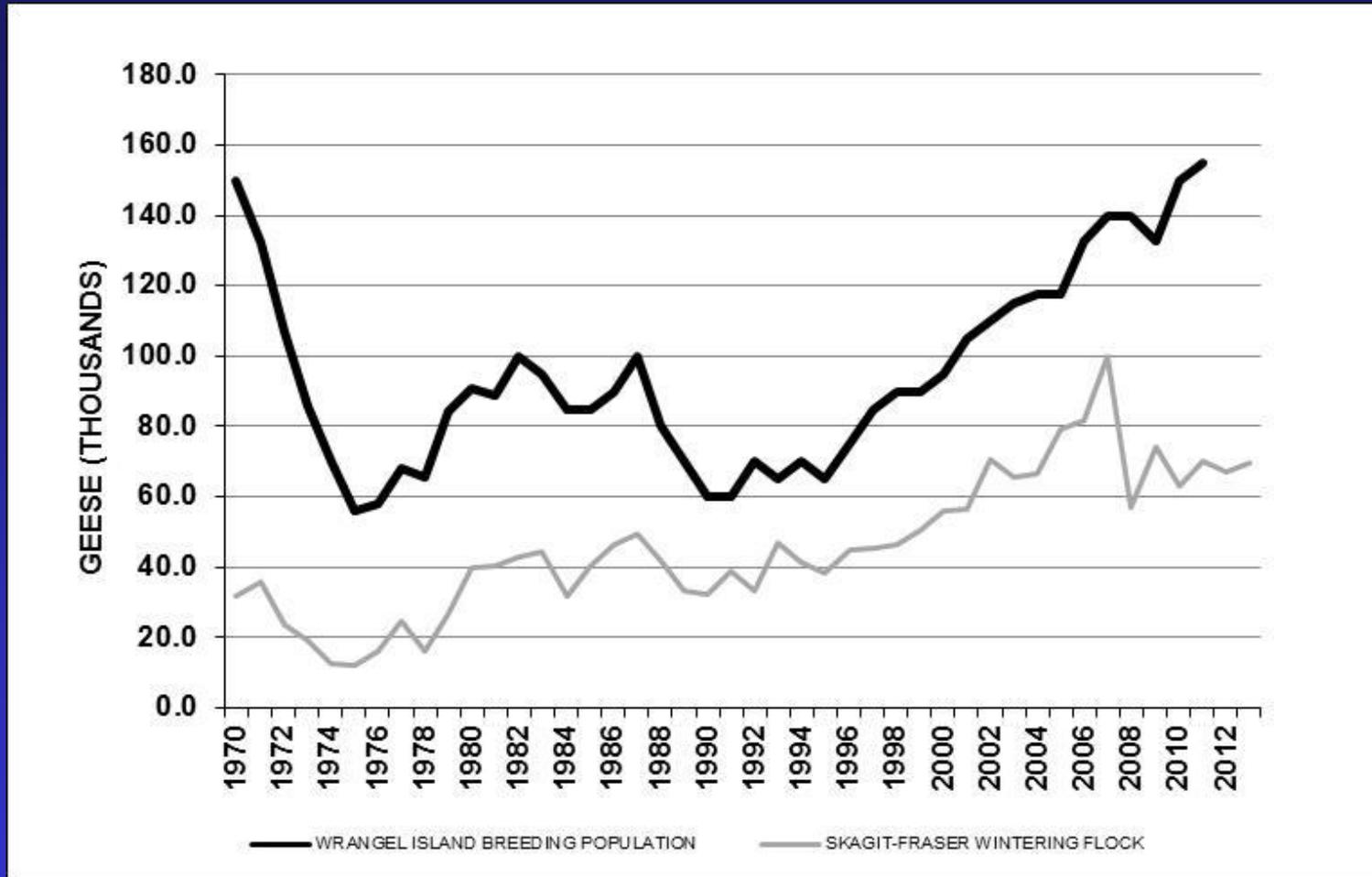


**Figure 2.** Management index for dusky Canada geese, Copper River Delta and Middleton I., Alaska, 1986-2014.

# Cackling Goose Trends

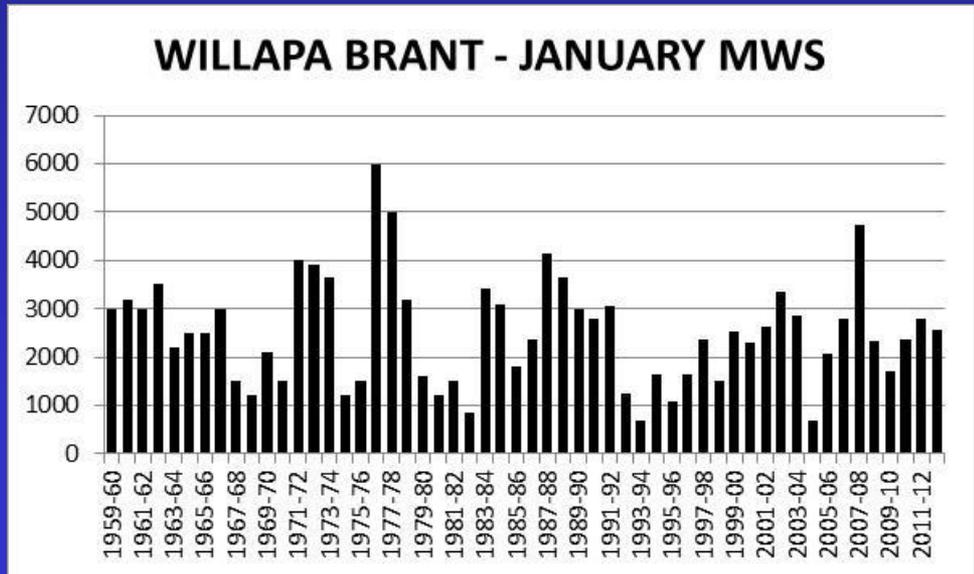
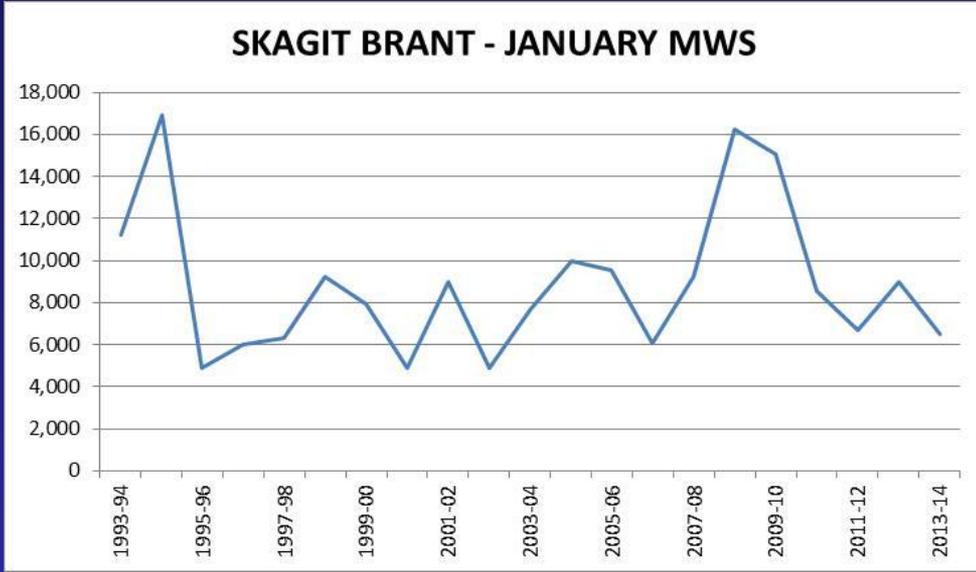


# Wrangel Island Snow Goose Trends



- No breeding estimate since 2011
- 2014: poor production predicted
- 69,865 Skag./Fr. 2013-14 August 8-9, 2014 Commission Meeting 19

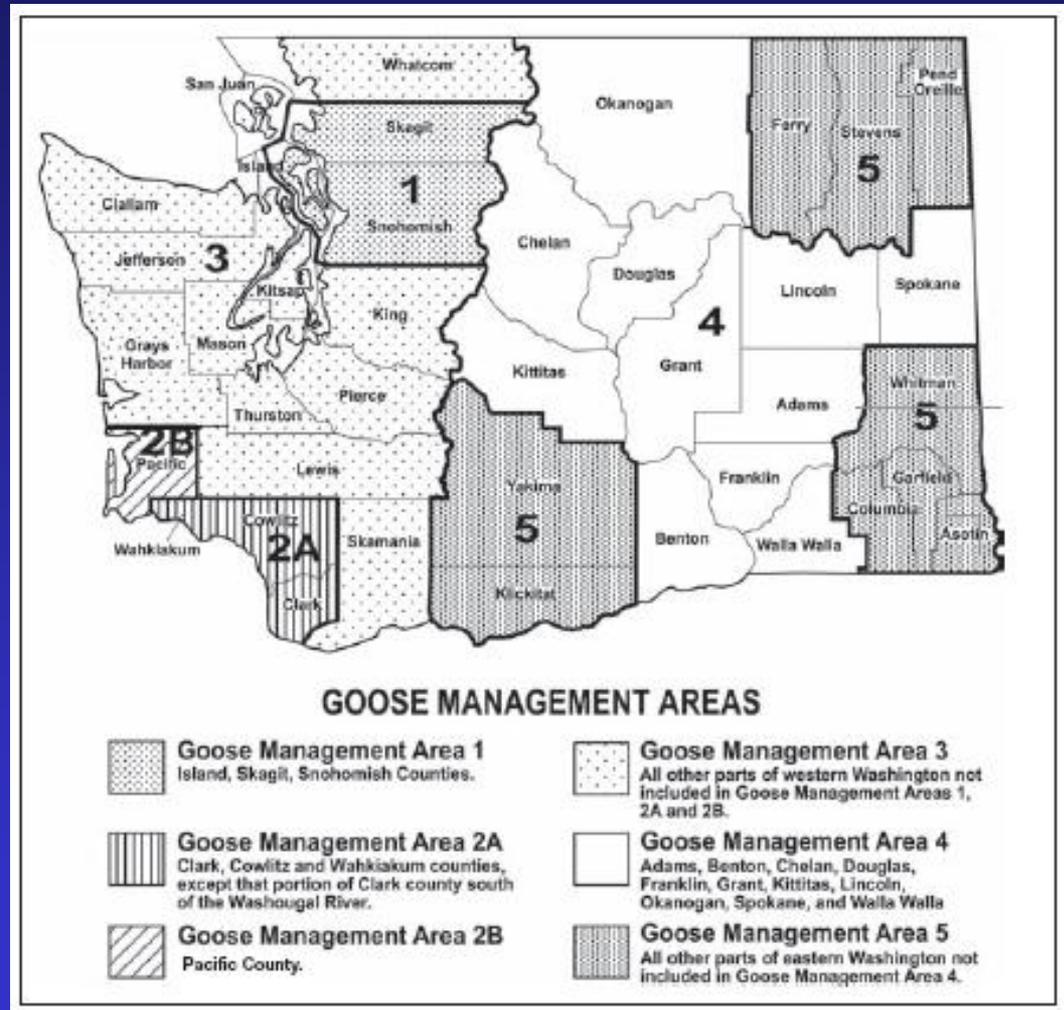
# Brant Trends



Potential 2015-16 season in Clallam Co.  
(3-yr ave. 2,494)

# 2014-15 Goose Season Proposals

- Season dates and limits similar to last year
- Proposed higher dusky quotas
- Proposed higher limits for cackling geese in Areas 2A / 2B
- Add Jan. 1 hunt day for Area 4



# QUESTIONS?



